

Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Resolution of the “Open View of God” Philosophy

April 2, 2004

Whereas the Biblical view of God reveals:

- That Almighty God, being omniscient, knows all things past, present, and future (Isaiah 46:9-10; 48:3-5; Ecclesiastes 3:11);
- That Almighty God knows all the future possibilities (Psalm 147:4-5; Romans 11:33-36);
- That Almighty God knows the future choices of every person and creature (1st Kings 11:29-39 and 12:15 – future decisions; Matthew 11:21 – cities; 26:24; 26:33-35 – persons);

And, whereas the Bible reveals that God:

- Decrees what He determines will happen (Job 14:5; Isaiah 53);
- And, permits what He wills even though He is not culpable for it (Genesis 2:17; 3:1-8);
- And, predicts accurately what future choices an individual will make (2nd Kings 23:16; 1st Kings 13:1-2; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28);

Be it therefore resolved that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 47th Spring Bible Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 2nd, 2004, reject the Open View of God philosophy (known also as Open Theism) because:

- It teaches that “the future consists partly of settled realities and partly of unsettled realities... (stating that) If God does not foreknow future free actions, it is not because His knowledge of the future is in any sense incomplete. It’s because there is... nothing definite there for God to know” (*God of the Possible*, G. A. Boyd, p. 16);
- It teaches that “possibilities...will be resolved only by the decisions of free agents” (action on their own volition) (*God of the Possible*, p. 54);
- It teaches that “we believe that God takes risks” and that “God does not determine everything about the future” (“Christianity Today,” March 5:2001);
- It teaches that “to assume that He knows ahead of time how every person is going to freely act assumes that each person’s free activity is already therefore know—even before he freely does it. But it’s not. ...we create the reality of our decisions by making them (ourselves). And until we make them, they don’t exist” (*Letters from a Skeptic*, G.A. Boyd).

Be it further resolved that we call on the churches of the NARBC to “take heed to yourselves” (Acts 20:28) holding to the “whole counsel of God” (20:27) and to guard themselves against this deviant philosophy which seeks to infiltrate the flock to God and will undermine the doctrine of the sovereignty of Almighty God (2 Timothy 4:3,4).